

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-27 were pending in the application. Claims 16 and 20 have been amended, claims 1-8, 18, 19, and 22-24 have been canceled, and no new claims have been added herein. Therefore, claims 9-17, 20, 21, and 25-27 are now present for examination. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these claims for at least the reasons presented below.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Advisory Action indicated that claims 6, 9-15, and 25 include allowable subject matter. The Applicants thank the Examiner for performing a careful search and finding the allowable subject matter. The Applicants also respectfully point out that the claims have been amended to include subject matter that should be allowable based on this indication. Namely, independent method claim 16, upon which claims 17 and 26 depend, and independent method claim 20, upon which claims 21 and 27 depend, have been amended to include elements similar to those of the allowable independent system claim 9.

More specifically, claim 16 has been amended to recite in part "wherein bending the optical signal comprises both reflecting and refracting the optical signal." Similarly, claim 20 has been amended to recite in part "wherein time-dividing the optical signal comprises both reflecting and refracting the optical signal." That is, both independent method claims have been amended to indicate the use of a catadioptric device as defined in the specification at least in paragraph 14 and as commonly defined in the art. The Applicants believe that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance at least for the reason that the Final Office Action indicated such an element in the system claims to be allowable.

Appl. No. 10/020,310
Amdt. dated: February 22, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.114 Request for Continued
Examination

PATENT

Claim Rejections

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No.2002/0154354 of Raj et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,314 of Mori et al. As discussed above, the pending claims have been amended to include subject matter indicated to be allowable. As such, Applicants believe that the rejection is rendered moot and that claims 9-17, 20, 21, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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